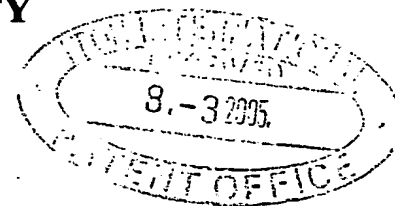


PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY



To:
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PCT

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY
(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year)

02.8.2005

Applicant's or agent's file reference
R05019PCT

FOR FURTHER ACTION

See paragraph 2 below

International application No.

PCT/JP2005/008651

International filing date (day/month/year)

02.05.2005

Priority date (day/month/year)

06.05.2004

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC

Int.Cl.⁷ B41J11/42, B65H5/00

Applicant

RICOH COMPANY, LTD.

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Date of completion of this opinion

14.07.2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA/JP

Japan Patent Office

3-4-3, Kasumigasaki, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8915, Japan

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3B 3317

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.

PCT/JP2005/008651

Box No. I Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).

2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:

a. type of material

- ☐ a sequence listing
☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing

b. format of material

- ☐ in written format
☐ in computer readable form

c. time of filing/furnishing

- ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.

3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.

4. Additional comments:

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.

PCT/JP2005/008651

Box No. V **Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-38	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-9, 14-26, 31-38	YES
	Claims	10-13, 27-30	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-38	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

D1: JP 2001-31278 A (TOUSHIBA TEC CORP.) 2001.02.06,
lines 23-46, left column, page 3,
line 26, right column, page 4 to line 44, left column, page 5,
Figs. 1-8

D2: JP 2004-99280 A (RISO KAGAKU CORP.) 2004.04.02,
line 18, page 6 to line 4, page 8, Figs. 1-5

The subject matter of claim 1-9, 14-26, and 31-38 is considered to involve an inventive step over the documents cited in the international search report.

The subject matter of claim 10-13 does not appear to involve an inventive step in view of the Document 1(D1) cited in the ISR.

Although D1 does not disclose the technical feature "conveyance belt that conveys a medium by attracting the medium by an electrostatic force", said feature is well-known art. Therefore the person skilled in the art would easily conceive the idea of employing the feature.

Although D1 does not disclose the technical feature "alternating voltage applied to charger to apply positive and negative charges to conveyance belt", said feature is well-known art. Therefore the person skilled in the art would easily conceive the idea of employing the feature.

The subject matter of claim 27-30 does not appear to involve an inventive step in view of the Document 1(D1) and Document 2(D2) cited in the ISR.

The technical feature "adjusting an amount of electric charges induced on the recording medium in accordance with a result of detection of a relative position between the recording medium and the charges applied to conveyance mean" in D1 and the feature "adjusting an amount of electric charges induced on the recording medium in accordance with a resistance value of the recording medium" in D2 are concerned with mutually related technical fields. Therefore, the skilled person in the art would easily conceive the idea of employing the feature in D1 to substitute the feature disclosed in D2.